

Reading for the Blind, p.4



Olympic Boxer, p.11

## Greenbelter Gets to Be Extra In Upcoming Film on Slavery

by Kyla Hanington

“There are three rules to being an extra in a movie,” my brother, an experienced extra, told me. “Overact in the background, look directly at the camera and get between the camera and the main action as often as possible.”

I was on my way to Wilmington, N.C., where my daughter Anja, an Eleanor Roosevelt High School graduate, is working on the feature-length documentary, *Hope of Escape*. Its website announces that the movie tells “the story of Diana Williams, her daughter Cornelia and her daughter’s sweetheart William, as they plan their emancipation from slavery.” While that is a concise summary, it can’t convey the richness of the film and the story that it tells. I have been hearing some of these stories for over a year, as Anja is the production coordinator and sound assistant for the film. The filmmaker, Amy Gerber-Stroh, was Anja’s thesis director for her undergraduate degree in film from Hollins University and is a direct descendant of Diana and Cornelia. The resilience and the power of Amy’s ancestors were



PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

London White plays young Cornelia in the film *Hope of Escape*.

extraordinary and when I heard they needed extras for the film I morphed instantly into the kid in the front of the class, arm raised, “Ooh, pick me, pick me.”

My call time for the film was

11 a.m. on Sunday. I woke up early to look for alligators. I walked around Archie Blue Community Park and paused for a

See **FILM**, page 6

## Council FOP Contract Vote Delayed by Process Shortfalls

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council meeting of July 12 resounded with complaints about administrative failures relating to the meeting and its content and interfering with the ability to complete crucial agenda items. Resident Lore Rosenthal pointed out errors in meeting links that might be preventing citizens from attending the Zoom meeting and councilmembers griped about late or unavailable documents. Complaints were made that the action on the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) contract was mislabeled as a resolution when it was not (a resolution requires first and second readings). The upshot was that the vote on the four-year collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the city and the FOP was delayed to August, despite what appeared to be council-wide agreement on its provisions.

Councilmember Judith Davis referred to “sloppy administration” because of delay in getting materials to council and brought up the misuse of the word “resolution” in the agenda. Later in the meeting she focused on these shortcomings, stating that, though council had undoubtedly caused its share of problems in other cases, the CBA issue was not

the fault of council and that she hoped the FOP would understand.

### Greenbelt Is Behind

In describing the provisions of the new agreement, City Solicitor Steve Silvestri, who negotiated on behalf of the city, said that Greenbelt’s police department is one of the lower-paid among local jurisdictions, making it harder to recruit new early-career and more-experienced police officers. “We have fallen behind,” he said,

with officers up to three steps below (later corrected by FOP Counsel Patrick McAndrew to up to seven steps or approximately 20 percent of salary) where they would have been had council funded those steps annually.

See **FOP**, page 8

### What Goes On

**Saturday, July 24**

**9 a.m. to noon.** Electronics Recycling, Public Works Yard  
**Monday, July 26**

**8 p.m.** Council Worksession: City Manager’s Quarterly Report (Closed council session follows)

**Wednesday, July 28**

**8 p.m.** Four Cities Meeting (Town of Berwyn Heights)

—  
All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

## New Voting Method Joins Old Ones for 2021 City Election

by Kathleen Gallagher

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

It isn’t often that Greenbelt adopts new methods for voting in city elections, but the repertoire has increased slowly but surely over the years. Following paper ballots was a long period of lever machines, followed by other machines. Then voting times were expanded to make it easier for residents to vote and over the years early voting has expanded with both weekday and weekend hours.

### What’s New?

Those who have been following city council legislation are already aware that Greenbelt has followed in the steps of Mary-

land’s very successful introduction of voting by mail during the primary elections last year. Other residents may have been surprised to receive a Vote by Mail postcard recently that announces the beginning of the program with the upcoming City Council Election on November 2.

### How Does It Work?

One important aspect of the program is that it will absorb what was previously known as Absentee Voting. Residents who previously requested an Absentee Ballot should request a Vote by Mail ballot instead.

Although all registered voters will receive applications to request mail ballots if they wish,

See **VOTING**, page 8

## PSAC Report to City Council Argues for Some Limited Reform

by Matthew Arbach

On July 12, members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) met with the Greenbelt City Council to present their May 5 report on Mayor Colin Byrd’s Fair and Just Policing Act. PSAC analyzed the proposed legislation, in comparison to the existing General Orders of the Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) and the recent April 2021 state legislation on policing, along with GPD operations records and reports to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and standards of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

PSAC recommended that such an ordinance would not be necessary, as the General Orders and

state legislation already address most of what Byrd is pressing for. PSAC did find, however, that there were areas in police policies and the organization itself that were troubling and required scrutiny as well as modification of the General Orders. Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers added that an ordinance would be more difficult to alter than General Orders, which are easily changed or amended (as they are on a regular basis) to fit the current situation, a point concurred with by PSAC.

Byrd countered that the lack of an ordinance sent the message that police “are above the law,” and that it was possible for the

See **PSAC**, page 9



PHOTO BY JULIE RAPP

Poetry and Gardens go together, as shown by the Three Sisters Garden East poetry reading. See story, page 12.



# Letters to the Editor

## SNAP Token Match At Farmers Market

I made my usual trip to the Farmers Market Sunday morning and was pleased to find the SNAP table matches benefit money amount. Visit the SNAP table and purchase \$10 in food tokens to use at vendors and receive an additional \$10 in tokens. This

weekend, Sunday, July 18, the match was 1.5x the amount; I got an additional \$15 in tokens. Next weekend, Sunday, July 25, will have the same match. Buy \$10 and get an additional \$15 in tokens. Make your SNAP money go farther, eat more fresh food and support local businesses.

Kathryn Beard

## My Point of View

## Re-using Plastic Bags Goes to the Dogs

by Melissa Sites

Greenbelt’s dog walkers have come up with a wonderful cooperative and community-based re-use system for old plastic bags. Many dog walkers know that moment – when you realize you forgot the little bags you need for picking up your dog’s poo. Some residents have installed stations along our walking paths where thoughtful donors leave small plastic bags for re-use. The most favored bags for this type of re-use are the ones newspapers are stuffed into for delivery. Produce bags also work well. Almost any small bag – as long as it’s not perforated – will do.

Recently I ordered a 13” pizza pan, along with a 9” x 12” baking pan and a silicon spatula. Imagine my chagrin when the pans arrived in a box about four feet long and nearly two feet wide! The box was stuffed full of more than 30 plastic packing pillows to keep those three items from sliding around in there – a veritable ocean of plastic! But one great way to re-use packing pillows is as dog poo bags. So I sat down with my scissors and tore apart the long strips of pillows, opening each pillow along one end with my scissors to make a bag. These bags are big enough for my hand to fit inside, and are bigger than needed to hold a sandwich. (Smaller packing pillows can be reused in place of snack-size baggies.)

After separating and opening all the pillows, I had reduced the total volume from that huge



PHOTO BY MELISSA SITES

The Companion Animal Committee helps provide recycled bags for companionable poop.

box into one rolled up handful of poo bags. I then distributed them around to four different poo bag baskets along my morning walk. Thanks, Greenbelt, for your amazing dedication to reuse and community cooperation.

P.S. I did not keep the poo bags myself, because I pick up my dog’s poo with a tissue, place it in a bag-lined plastic container (a cocoa powder box!) and carry it home to flush – reducing my bag use to about one a month. To pick up each poo in its own bag would use over 1,000 plastic bags a year.

## Corrections

In our story about Sylvia Lewis, the 2011 Outstanding Citizen, in last week’s paper the email address to submit nominations for this year’s Outstanding Citizen was off by one letter. The correct address (as shown on the nomination form) is outstandingcitizengb@gmail.com.

The News Review added an extraneous letter to the name of one of our correspondents in the July 8 Letters column: his name is Robin Hawley Gorsline. We regret the error.

## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.



See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.

## UMD Reporter

Melissa Signorini, a Maryland journalism major soon to graduate, is an intern writing for the News Review.

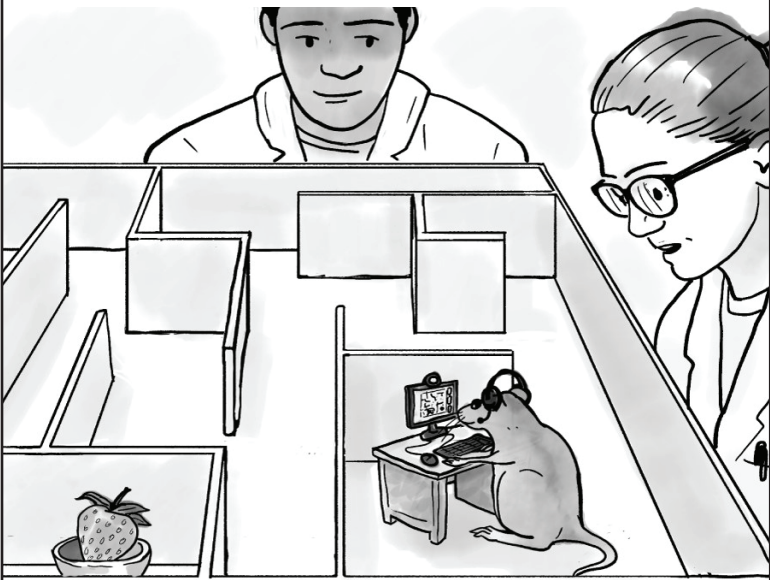
## County Has Rent Help

Prince George’s County is offering rent relief because of Covid-19. The county’s 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will help eligible applicants with payment assistance for rent and utilities. Landlords may also apply on behalf of their tenants. Applications will be accepted until funds are out. To apply and for more information visit [hcd.mypgc.us](http://hcd.mypgc.us) and click “Emergency Rental Assistance Program.”

## Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.  
[editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com)

## Service or Garden Side?



She is in a video conference with a strategy advisor.

B. Glee

## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887  
Phone: 301-474-4131; Fax: 301-965-8247  
[editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com) (stories, letters, photos)  
[ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com) (ads)  
[business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:business@greenbeltnewsreview.com) (billing)  
website: [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

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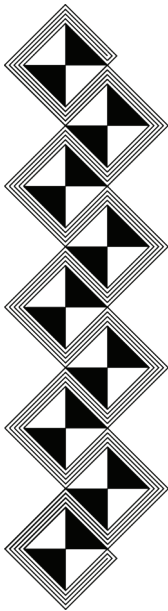
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



PHOTO BY MELISSA SITES

Participants enjoy the Bibliohop outside the Library on Saturday, July 17.





# Community Events

## At the Library

The Greenbelt Library is now open to the public, with hours Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sidewalk service for held books is available outside the upper-level entrance (pickup reservation required), or requested books can be picked up on the shelves inside the library, as before. Study rooms are open but meeting rooms remain closed.

Appointments for one hour of computer use can be made up to seven days in advance at [pgcmls.info/reopening](http://pgcmls.info/reopening) or 240-455-5451; some computers may be available with no appointments. Full browsing: stacks are open without restrictions, no appointments required. The library is not accepting book donations for the foreseeable future but has a third-party book donation bin outside the lower-level entrance.

### Mobile Printing, Hotspots

The library offers mobile printing to the public. The first 10 black-and-white pages are free. More information is available at [pgcmls.info/mobile-printing](http://pgcmls.info/mobile-printing).

Families can borrow mobile hotspot devices for up to nine weeks at a time. Adults aged 18 and older with library cards in good standing may request a SmartSpot through the curbside booking form. One device per household may be borrowed.

### Learning Resources

Brainfuse HelpNow offers an array of additional learning resources for Prince Georgians, including SkillSurfer, a library of lessons, videos, tests and more, available year-round. The library also helps students prepare for standardized tests and writing college admissions essays through the EBSCO LearningExpress online resource. Check the PGC-MLS virtual events calendar regularly for related programming.

### Summer Reading

The Washington Nationals and County Library System are partnering on Summer @ Your Library, a summer reading and library engagement program offered in English and Spanish for all ages. The 2021 theme is Tails and Tales. The program runs through Friday, August 20 and will be primarily offered online with select in-person events.



## Donate Sneakers For People in Need

The Board of Congregational Life at Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, which has harmful effects on the environment, and will send the sneakers to countries where the poor often go barefoot out of necessity. For more information about GotSneakers, go to their website at [GotSneakers.com](http://GotSneakers.com).

A donation box for sneakers is located outside the Fellowship Center, the small building behind the church, for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

## Time Bank Sees Post Covid Uptick

After a dip in activities due to the pandemic, the Greenbelt Time Bank is starting to see an increase in requests and offers placed by members. This raises the question, what chores or talents have individuals put off requesting or offering during the pandemic?

The top exchanges made through the Time Bank from April through June 2021 were gardening, yard work, transportation and arts and crafts. There were also multiple offers or requests for legal advice, cooking, construction and home repair.

There are many easy-to-do activities that have been deferred during the pandemic. Some tasks represent easy ways to earn or spend Time Bank hours. Pet sitting or dog walking, computer work, a bicycle in need of service, shopping for the home-bound, decluttering or cleaning out a garage or attic space are among the tasks that individuals can offer or request through the Time Bank in addition to those mentioned above.

For members of the group, it is only a matter of placing a request or offer to the other members on the website. The Time Bank works on the simple premise of neighbors helping neighbors through an exchange of services. Training and an orientation are provided to all new members.

An orientation session will be scheduled soon, so anyone interested in becoming a member can register at [GreenbeltTimeBank.org](http://GreenbeltTimeBank.org). For interested individuals with questions, email [Greenbelt.Timebank@gmail.com](mailto:Greenbelt.Timebank@gmail.com) or call 240-473-3497 and leave a message.

## Museum Offers Free Walking Tours

The Museum is celebrating its gradual reopening with a series of free, small, in-person walking tours. The next tours are Saturday, July 24 and Saturday, August 7.

Pre-registration is required via Eventbrite, space is limited to allow social distancing and masks are recommended. Regular fees will resume in the fall.

## PGCPS Immersion Spots Still Available

Prince George's County Public Schools is still accepting late lottery applications to fill spots in language (Spanish or French) immersion programs for the 2021-22 school year for kindergarten and first-grade aged students.

For more information about the schools and their programs, visit [pgcps.org/lottery](http://pgcps.org/lottery). Spots in programs will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Covid Vaccine Clinics For County Students

Students ages 12 and over may receive a free Covid-19 vaccine at mobile clinics run by the Prince George's County Health Department. Clinics will be hosted at various high schools across the county, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Parents or guardians are welcome, but not required to accompany their child. All students must bring completed consent forms to be vaccinated. Consent forms are available on the Prince George's County Public Schools website at [pgcps.org/coronavirus/pgcps-vaccination-plan](http://pgcps.org/coronavirus/pgcps-vaccination-plan).

The mobile clinics closest to Greenbelt will be held on Monday, July 26, at DuVal High School (9880 Good Luck Road, Lanham); and Friday, July 30, at Bowie High School (15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie) and High Point High School (3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville).



## Porch Greenbelt July Food Pickup Dates

The next Greenbelt collection date for front porch pickup is in a new area that has been added to Porch – Laurel Hill Road. There will be a pickup on Saturday, July 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Place donations on the front porch in a box or bag labelled PORCH or RUAK. If the front porch is not visible from the road, place donations in a location that can be seen. Make sure to check the expiration dates on all food items.

Volunteers are welcome to expand Porch Greenbelt to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Porch Greenbelt, can email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com).

## School Bus Driver Job Fair Offered

Prince George's County has a shortage of more than 270 school bus drivers for this fall and is holding a virtual Job Fair to fill the positions. Those interested must pre-register for this event by filling out the information on a form linked to [pgcps.org/drivewithus](http://pgcps.org/drivewithus) (scroll down and click the blue bar: Virtual Bus Drive Job Fair & Hiring Event). There are also some requirements that must be met for the positions.

Information about school bus driving also can be found at the above website.

## Cost-effective Health Screenings July 29

Affordable health screenings are coming to Greenbelt via Life Line Screening. Screenings will test for risks of cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis and diabetes. They can also check for HDL and LDL cholesterol levels, kidney and thyroid function and other medical conditions.

Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 will host this event on Thursday, July 29, at 6900 Greenbelt Road. There is a charge, and the price may vary depending on age and risk factors. Consultants work with applicants to find a package that suits them. Pre-registration is required. Visit [lifelinescreening.com](http://lifelinescreening.com) or call 877-237-1287 for more information.

## Connecting Across Greenbelt

Consider joining Connecting Across Greenbelt (CAG). CAG meets monthly to build understanding of each other, to encourage inclusivity, cultivate relationships and to ensure that the city's resources and services are equitably distributed across populations within Greenbelt.

The group's next event is a Forum on Public Safety to be held Thursday, July 22 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Join in to hear from a panel of neighbors about what makes them feel safe or unsafe in Greenbelt.

CAG is a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-generational group of residents who gather virtually to build relationships across neighborhoods and to learn about current challenges of Greenbelters. The group is building multiple resources. The first is research-tested coping strategies for self-care and stress management called Caring and Connecting Toolkit ([bit.ly/CAGtoolkit](http://bit.ly/CAGtoolkit)).

To find out about monthly meetings and the Community Conversations program, email [communityconnectionsgeb@gmail.com](mailto:communityconnectionsgeb@gmail.com).

## Astronomical Society Virtual Meeting

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will have their next meeting online on Thursday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome. The Zoom link will be posted on the club's website, [greenbeltastro.org](http://greenbeltastro.org), before the meeting. Vice President Anwar Al-Mallah will present the latest updates to the astronomy simulation software he has previously shown to the club. These programs will include Universe Sandbox, Space Engine, Stellarium and Microsoft Flight Simulator.

## Lawn Concert Sunday With Gill and Davey

The Concert on the Lawn series continues at the Greenbelt Community Church on Sunday, July 25 at 11:30 a.m. with guitarists Tom Gill and Tom Davey (members of the local band The Relics) offering original songs and covering favorites. Prince George's County lifer Tom Gill's musical activities have meandered from garage band stalwart to church music director. In Iowa, Tom Davey's band was the Bean Angels; he now teaches guitar and piano to unsuspecting locals. Bring a chair, a cool drink and a friend to share some shady summer listening fun.

## GVFD Presentation And Book Signing

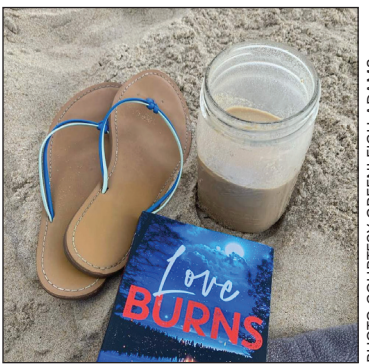


PHOTO COURTESY GREENLEIGH ADAMS

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department's Greenleigh Adams will be presenting and signing her new romantic novel Love Burns on Saturday, July 31 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Greenbelt Fire Department. Books will be available for purchase.



## Greenbelt Access Television Jul 23, Fri – Jul 29, Thu

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

### THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station

7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	GATe Classic Film	Bulldog Drummond • Ronald Coleman
	Strata	Follows FILM on the half hour
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Montpelier v Whitehall
2pm	Music at the New Deal	Black Massala • DC Brass Bhangra Funk
3pm	GATe Classic Film	Bulldog Drummond • Ronald Coleman
	Strata	Follows FILM on the half hour
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Montpelier v Whitehall
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	GATe Classic Film	Bulldog Drummond • Ronald Coleman
	Strata	Follows FILM on the half hour
10pm	Music at the New Deal	Black Massala • DC Brass Bhangra Funk
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming

Connect with GATe [f](https://www.facebook.com/gate) [y](https://www.youtube.com/gate) [i](https://www.instagram.com/gate)  
[www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

The Rude Mechanicals in residence at Greenbelt Arts Center present:

GAC online

Gallathea

by John Lyly, directed by Jaki Demarest

Celebrating the Rude Mechanical's 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary!

Live Online: Sat, July 24. Suggested donation: \$10

[rudemechanicals.com](http://rudemechanicals.com)[greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org)

Coming Soon: Old-Time Radio Shows posted July 25.



# Greenbelt Volunteers Help With Reading for the Blind

by Glenn Harris

Greenbelter Kathie Jarva and this reporter are volunteers at the Metropolitan Washington Ear (MWE), a radio, reading and information service for the blind, visually impaired and those who can no longer physically handle printed materials. Dr. Margaret Pfanstiehl, who was herself a blind person, started MWE in 1974. It's called The Ear because, for the subscribers, it allows the ear to hear what the eye is unable to see. Services include reading and recording of newspapers and periodicals, audio descriptions of selected theater performances and on-call look-up services. Their website is [washear.org](http://washear.org).

MWE volunteers read and record publications so that subscribers can listen, free, via special radios or the telephone dial-in service. The radio broadcasts are done in conjunction with WETA; Minnesota Public Radio provides the overnight radio programming. MWE volunteers read and record seven days a week. Volunteers also enable subscribers to attend in-person performances at venues such as the Olney Theater, where the volunteer narrates the performance to the listener in real time. The look-up service allows subscribers to call MWE with specific questions on almost any topic, and a volunteer will look up the answer for the subscriber.

Jarva has been an MWE volunteer reader since about 1994. While an exchange student in Finland, she resided with a family whose father was blind. This influenced her decision to become a volunteer reader. She is a retiree from the Goddard Space Flight Center where she was a resource manager for the facilities operations at the Greenbelt campus.

Harris was an assistant program manager for the parts and supplies distribution operation at Goddard. After retirement, he became a volunteer at MWE in 2008 because his mother had low vision in her later years. Another volunteer from Greenbelt has been unable to read because of the pandemic but will likely resume later this year.

MWE services are free to subscribers. The organization is funded through grants, donations and



At home, Kathie Jarva reads and records TV listings for the subscribers of the Metropolitan Washington Ear.

appropriations from Washington-area government agencies. The City of Greenbelt has provided an annual appropriation to MWE for many years. The organization was chosen by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best small charities in the Washington, D.C., region."

To support MWE, designate Metropolitan Washington Ear at Smile.Amazon and the organization will receive a portion of each purchase.

Daily and weekly newspapers and publications are available, including The Washington Post, Washington Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today and local publications such as the Greenbelt News Review and the Capital Gazette. Jarva specializes in reading the daily TV listings. Harris reads the Washington Post radio program on Mondays, and he also reads the News Review on Thursdays for the dial-in service.

Since March 2020, the Silver Spring studios have been closed to volunteers and all reading

has been done from volunteers' homes. The MWE staff hopes to reopen the offices later this year. Volunteers are always needed, so there is often the option of reading from home in non-pandemic times.

Computer software that converts text to speech is continually improving and could be helpful to the blind and visually impaired. For example, IBM's Watson does an impressive job of converting text to nuanced speech. Future technology may allow organizations like MWE to make more publications available to subscribers without needing additional volunteer labor. However, for the immediate future, a skilled reader always sounds better and is more adaptable than any computer. As a result, MWE and its volunteers will continue to provide the blind and visually impaired with windows to the world.

— Kathie Jarva contributed to this article.

## Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.



Congratulations to Betty and Joe Timer, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 17. They celebrated their anniversary by spending a long weekend at a spa resort.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



Hibiscus in flower

PHOTO BY JOHANNA GODERRE

## LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW

Visually impaired may listen for free Call Metropolitan Washington Ear 301-681-6636

No special equipment needed



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather VIRTUALLY for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:

[FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Reverend Rivera, Pastor

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come meet our new pastor.



"That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth himself to the service of the entire human race ... Blessed and happy is he that ariseth to promote the best interests of the peoples and kindreds of the earth."

— Bahá'u'lláh



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

## Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

All services and activities are currently virtual

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



July 25 10 a.m.

How Social Activism Shapes our Lives

Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Doug Igelsrud, Marjory Donn, Tricia Most

Zoom video at <https://zoom.us/j/93495780708>

with Tricia Most, Worship Associate

Four speakers share their social activism journeys.

## Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

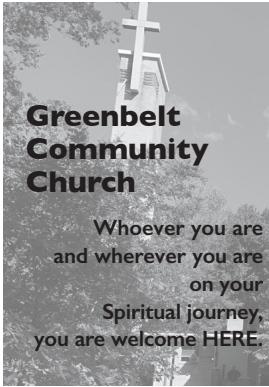


IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
[MCFcc.org](http://MCFcc.org)

The Bible Says...

Forgiving each other...  
just as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13



NOW LIVE/IN PERSON  
Sunday at 10:15

Sermon Title:

Food that Endures for  
Eternal Life

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

One Hillside Road

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

\*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.

[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)





City Notes

Planning and Community Development received a \$480,000 grant for parking lot improvements at Buddy Attick Park.

Three dogs, three cats, 12 kittens and a rabbit welcomed Girl Scouts to the Animal Shelter.

Refuse/Recycling collected 25.31 tons of refuse and 9.30 tons of recyclables.

Horticulture/Parks planted cherry laurel and clethra bushes at Greenbelt Lake and pruned trees on Parkway to facilitate road maintenance.

Sustainability/Environmental’s presentation to educators featured compost programs, storm water maintenance and native pollinator gardens.

Building Maintenance repaired Crescent Road crosswalk lights by the Northway intersection.

The Museum’s virtual lecture exploring Greenbelt’s Pride Movement attracted 17 participants.

Arts activities include support for Creative Kids Camp, monthly Art Shares and a slide show of artwork displayed in the Council Chambers.

The Virtual Recreation Center features Summer Activities and Camps, Outdoor Movies, Summer Open Gym and Artist Studios.

Therapeutic Recreation provided frozen meal delivery for 33 seniors.

Park rangers led nature scavenger hunts for summer campers.

Vax Scholarships

In an effort to encourage all Marylanders to protect themselves from Covid-19, the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) have set up a \$1 million VaxU Scholarship Promotion fund for vaccinated residents ages 12 to 17 which provides a chance to win a college scholarship. The state is offering up to 20 scholarships around Maryland during nine statewide drawings. Those who win will receive a \$50,000 scholarship through a Prepaid College Trust or a College Investment Plan from the Maryland 529 plans. The funds will go toward covering the cost of tuition and fees for a four-year college or university. Students who have a registered Maryland address at the time of their vaccination and who get vaccinated in Maryland (not at federal locations) will be automatically entered in the promotion for a chance to win.

Two winners will be selected each week on Mondays until September 6. On this, the last draw date, four winners will be selected. MDH will run the drawings, and every week a random generator will decide prize winners. Alternate winners will be selected in case original winners do not accept the prizes, are deemed ineligible or do not produce all necessary documentation and information to be validated as eligible.

For more information on eligibility and the promotion, visit the Maryland Higher VaxU Scholarship Promotion website. For all questions, email [VaxUScholarship.mhec@maryland.gov](mailto:VaxUScholarship.mhec@maryland.gov).



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR JULY 26-30

Monday, July 26 at 8:00pm **WORK SESSION re: City Manager’s Quarterly Update - Special Meeting Closed Session**  
*Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)*

Tuesday, July 27 at 7:30pm, **GREEN ACES/GREEN TEAM**, virtual. *On the Agenda: Solar Circle, Sustainable Land Care Circle, and Zero Waste Circle.*

Wednesday, July 28 at 7:30pm, **MAGLEV TASK FORCE MEETING**, virtual. *On the agenda: Open Discussion, Updates, Brainstorming Ways to Build Support for the “No Build” Option.*

Wednesday, July 28 at 8:00pm, **FOUR CITIES MEETING**, virtual meeting hosted by Berwyn Heights.

Thursday, July 29 at 6:00pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**, virtual. *On the agenda: 2021 Election Candidate Packet, Election Judges.*

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).*

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, July 26th, 2021, immediately following the virtual City Manager’s Update Work Session to: 1) discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; 2) to consult with legal counsel regarding outstanding legal matters.

The purpose of this meeting will be City Manager briefing on pending personnel and legal issues.

*\*The public may attend the Work Session of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session and observe the vote of Council to move into closed session.*

Bonita Anderson  
City Clerk

For City Services, Events, Meeting Info and more visit:  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter @cityofgreenbelt

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

**For more information call 301- 474-8000**

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, AND PAINT

RECYCLING

Saturday, July 24 2021  
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Recycle Your Old Computers and Other Electronics!

Accepted items include: CPUs, monitors, key-boards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires and power cords. Expanded polystyrene (block “Styrofoam” #6). NO Styro-foam cups, egg cartons or food trays. SORRY, ALKALINE BATTERIES AND TUBE TVs ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED. PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OVER 50 LBS.

Yuck Old Paint – PAINT RECYCLING!

Cost—\$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. In order for paint to be properly used, the contents on the inside need to match the label on the outside. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional \$50 service fee. Yuck Old Paint, LLC



Questions? Greenbelt Sustainability Office 240-542-2153

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 3rd  
TWO Locations!



**Beltway Plaza**, in the rear Target parking lot, from 6pm – 8pm. The event will include free food and beverages, a DJ, a K9 demonstration, a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog, a Helicopter demonstration and sporting activities.

**Hunting Ridge Community**, 6914 Hanover Pkwy, from 6:30-8pm. The event will include an Ice Cream Truck and the Greenbelt Police Department Bike Unit and McGruff the Crime Dog!

Prince George’s County Rent Help

The county’s 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will help eligible applicants with payment assistance for rent and utilities.

To apply and for more information visit [hcd.mypgc.us](http://hcd.mypgc.us) and click “Emergency Rental Assistance Program.” You may also contact Greenbelt CARES at [cares@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cares@greenbeltmd.gov) with questions or for further resources.

GREENBELT PRESCHOOL PROGRAM MOM’S MORNING OUT

Ages 3-5



Greenbelt Recreation has provided a licensed preschool program for over thirty years. The fall program will return onsite five days a week at the Greenbelt Youth Center. We will offer a traditional pre-school program that provides activities that encourage social development, beginning

reading, math and science curriculum, fine and gross motor skills, all while encouraging lots of fun with peers. Student registration packet due before the first day of class.

Instructors: Gaye Houchens and Shelley Cooper  
\*Director may approve attendance for all 5 days\*

**Ages 4-5**  
Registration # 427503-2  
M/W/F 9:00am-1:00pm  
Youth Center  
Classes: Sept. 13-Dec. 17  
(No class: 11/22, 11/24, 11/26)  
Residents of Greenbelt: \$897;  
Non-Residents: \$1053

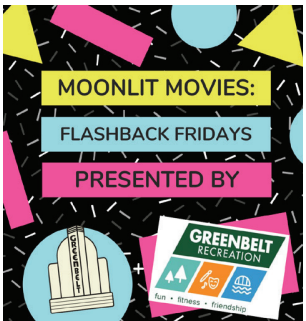
**Ages 3-4**  
Registration # 427503-1  
Tu/Th 9:00am-12:00pm  
Youth Center  
Classes: Sept. 14-Dec. 16  
(No class: 11/11, 11/23, 11/25)  
Residents of Greenbelt: \$432;  
Non-Residents: \$507

Please call 301-397-2200 to receive an email or phone call from our Preschool Director for more details. Registration is ongoing, so sign up soon to reserve your spot.

MOONLIT MOVIES

Braden Field  
Behind the Youth Center  
Friday, July 23 & July 30

Outdoor movies have been a tradition in Greenbelt since 2014, and this year they will be a safe, fun way to get back to the movies! Greenbelt Recreation and Old Greenbelt Theatre will feature family fun films.



This is a partnership of the City of Greenbelt and Old Greenbelt Theatre. Tickets will be sold through Old Greenbelt Theatre  
Visit <https://greenbelttheatre.org/> for more info

How Are We Doing?

The Community Relations Board and the Greenbelt Police Department would like your feedback on Community Policing in Greenbelt.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/36PQDvC> to take the survey

FREE Produce

Every 3rd Thursday of the month, the City of Greenbelt hosts a free produce distribution. There is no income requirements or registration.

Please visit [greenbeltmd.gov/cityevents](http://greenbeltmd.gov/cityevents) to learn more



FILM continued from page 1

while on a bridge, when what should appear in the water below me but an alligator. Giddy with delight, I took pictures and texted everyone I knew. In general, the conversations went like this:

Me: I saw an alligator.  
My boss: Do not pet it.  
My boss: Do not get in the water with it.  
My boss: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING IT HOME.

I have never felt so seen. High off my encounter with an alligator in the wild, I arrived at the Poplar Plantation in Wilmington where that day’s shooting was taking place. Anja operated the boom-mic and was running sound for the day, and I hung out with the other extras and took pictures behind the scenes. I got to be an extra in two different scenes, and after the first one I decided to change the entire course of my life.

“Do you think there are many roles out there for fat, middle-aged, white women?” I asked some crew members over lunch. “I can hold still. Like, I could definitely play dead.”

Said crew member number one, “That’s hard to do well.”

“No, I can definitely do that,” I said, and I closed my eyes and stuck out my tongue to prove my point.

“Wow,” said crew member number two. “That is pretty good. I am going to another film shoot tomorrow and I will ask them if they need a dead body.”

“That’d be fantastic!”

“It’s a Hallmark movie.”

“They’ll definitely need a dead body.”

To be an extra is to wait around for five hours to do a five-minute shoot and that was in some ways my experience. Except it was much richer than that. I got to know the tremendously skilled Mizan Kirby-Nunes, who plays Diana in the film. I saw how hard Anja and the other crew members worked on set – managing scenes, managing equipment and managing people. The female-led film brings together top talent from New York, Virginia, Maryland, California and points between with Director Gerber-Stroh and her daughter, First Assistant Director Pippa Gerber-Stroh, setting the tone not only of the entire film but of the work experience – patient, encouraging and unflappable.

I recently talked to author Ken Woodley about his book *The Road to Healing: A Civil Rights Reparations Story* in Prince Edward County, Virginia. He said, “The founding fathers of 1776 ... they didn’t get the job done, they didn’t believe the words they wrote .... We all need to recognize that all of us are founding mothers and fathers, the founding of this nation truly continues.”

*Hope of Escape* tells the story of two of the founding mothers of this nation, their work and the founding of the nation that continues with the lives and efforts of the filmmakers.

Maybe I forgot the acting lessons my brother gave me as I drove to North Carolina. What he forgot was to tell me how invested I would become, how a little bit in love with everyone and everything on the set I would feel and how riveted I was by the story. Like so many, I eagerly anticipate *Hope of Escape*’s release, when I can see Diana and



Yep, Kyla definitely saw an alligator.



Greenbelter Anja Hanington operates the boom mic while Pippa Gerber-Stroh reviews a scene.

- Photos by Kyla Hanington



Mizan Kirby-Nunes plays Diana Williams in the film.

Cornelia and their stories come to life and have this critical part of our collective history told more fully by these powerful, world-changing voices.

Learn more about the movie at [hopeofescape.com](http://hopeofescape.com) or search for it on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook: [@hopeofescapemov](https://www.facebook.com/hopeofescapemov).

16th-century Play at GAC Portrays Same-sex Marriage

The Rude Mechanicals, in residence at Greenbelt Arts Center, are celebrating their 22nd anniversary with John Lyly’s *Gallathea*, presented live online on Saturday, July 24 at 8 p.m. Written in 1588, and one of the most subversive comedies to have emerged in the last 2,400 years or so, *Gallathea* features a same-sex, gender-fluid relationship that multiple gods and a whole village get behind and support, and it ends happily, with a marriage.

*Gallathea* had a profound influence on Shakespeare, giving the Bard ideas, plot points, linguistic style, even a few lines plagiarized here and there. Shakespeare clearly loved this play.

Every five years, in the village of Lincolnshire, Neptune demands the sacrifice of the village’s most beautiful virgin. *Gallathea* and *Phyllida* are beautiful Lincolnshire virgins, and it’s about that time. So their fathers disguise them as boys and send them off to the woods to hide. The cross-dressed virgins meet and, unexpectedly, they fall in love. Then several woodland nymphs fall in love with one or both of them. And a few gods fall in love with each other. A dodecahedron of love is

all around, irrespective of gender or species.

Lyly’s treatment of the women is sympathetic and fiercely modern in interesting ways; *Gallathea* and *Phyllida* fall genuinely in “unspotted” love, a love that does not alter when it alteration finds. Each of them sees and knows that she is in love with another woman, and neither one pulls back. The goddess Venus comes up with a heteronormative plan to make one of them a man, but never decides which, and at the end of the play, the two women are joyfully led off by their families, friends, neighbors and deities to be married.

Director Jaki Demarest commented, “We like to think it’s happily ever after.”

During Covid-19, the Greenbelt Arts Center is bringing online productions of important works to the residents of Greenbelt and the surrounding area. There is a suggested donation for viewing the show, which will support both the Greenbelt Arts Center and *The Rude Mechanicals*. For more information and to watch the play, visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org).



Claudia Bach plays the title role in Gallathea.

- Screenshots courtesy Rude Mechanicals



Erin Nealer plays Phyllida.

Nobody Knows Your Name?  
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[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)

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# Rosenthal, Hartman Honored To Be 2019 Outstanding Citizens

by Lois Rosado

With the exception of 2020, an Outstanding Citizen of Greenbelt has been selected every year since 1973. The Covid-19 pandemic forced a cancellation of Greenbelt’s 2020 Labor Day Festival and its many activities. This year, plans are underway for holding modified events and a public ceremony for the 2021 Outstanding Citizen. Individuals nominated have provided exemplary volunteer service enhancing the quality of life of this remarkable town. Who will join this illustrious group this year?

Lore Rosenthal and Michael Hartman were the 2019 Outstanding Citizens. When asked how they were enticed to attend the 2019 Opening Ceremony when the Outstanding Citizen Award was presented, Lore and Michael stated that, “Two friends independent of one another, asked us for a listing of our volunteer activities. Another friend asked us to have dinner with her and watch the ceremonies together. We suspected something was up. When the announcement came, our suspicions were confirmed!” They learned later that their friends had actually collaborated in nominating them. The committee noted the number of supportive signatures and documentation included in their nomination.

Rosenthal and Hartman were overwhelmed and deeply moved by the nomination and selection. They were surprised that their volunteer efforts were recognized and appreciated by residents of Greenbelt. “In Greenbelt, if you have a good idea, you can make it happen,” said Rosenthal.

The two continue their numerous volunteer efforts and regularly attend Greenbelt City Council meetings to express their thoughts and ideas on various issues being deliberated. Hartman, as president of the New Deal Café, recently entered into a contract with the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket to provide food services for the Café. He also serves on the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES), as well as supporting actions of the Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN). He is a founding member of the Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance (GREA) and supports the mayor’s efforts with the Fair and Just Policing Act. Hartman also served on the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Reasonable Accommodation Policy Committee.

Rosenthal continues as the program coordinator of GCAN and is a volunteer presenter and five-session Action Team facilitator on Drawdown (climate solutions to reverse global warming). She actively works with the Prince George’s County Sierra Club in monitoring the county’s Draft Climate Action Plan and with GREA’s eviction support project. This past year, Rosenthal got involved early with fundraising efforts as part of GHI’s Covid-response fee-deferral program. This program was established by GHI to assist members who were delinquent in paying their co-op fees because of lost wages. The group was able to raise enough funds to help pay off fees for 2020-2021. Lore and other GHI members are Rosenthal this ef-



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

**Greeting the crowds along the Labor Day Parade route, the 2019 Outstanding Citizen team of Michael Hartman and Lore Rosenthal are roundly applauded for their many long-standing efforts to put the green in Greenbelt through their advocacy of sustainable living practices like zero waste, community composting and solar power.**

fort as the problem continues to persist for some GHI members. She is also involved with several proposals for composting projects in Greenbelt and in other nearby parts of Prince George’s County.

With all that has occurred in the country and city over the past year, we asked Rosenthal and Hartman if they had experienced anything new or different since being selected as Outstanding Citizens. “As a result of George Floyd’s death in 2020, we have doubled down in our fight for racial equity in the city” (police reform, eviction moratorium and easier access to city elections through mail-in ballots). They have also participated in multi-session workshops about understanding racism.

In closing, the busy couple suggested that instead of Outstanding Citizen, perhaps the award should be called Outstanding Resident, Outstanding Greenbelter or Greenbelter of the Year. The committee will certainly consider these suggestions.

### Award 2021

The Outstanding Citizen award is bestowed annually during the opening ceremony of the Labor Day Festival. While a committee selects the Outstanding Citizen, that selection is made

from nominations submitted by you, the residents of Greenbelt. If you submitted a nomination for someone previously, support that person again, be persistent and add as many support letters or signatures as you can. While only one person, or rarely two, is designated as Greenbelt’s Outstanding Citizen, there is no doubt that every nominee has greatly contributed to the wonderful quality of life in Greenbelt. We encourage the nomination of youth and young adults who have gone beyond the call of duty and made a special impact on the Greenbelt community.

Submit a letter or the nomination form on this page by Monday, August 2 to Robert Zugby, chair, Outstanding Citizen Committee, 94 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or email [outstandingcitizengb@gmail.com](mailto:outstandingcitizengb@gmail.com).



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## Greenbelt

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## In-person Retro Town Fair Will Return on Labor Day Weekend

by Sheila Maffay-Tuthill

After a lovely virtual Retro Town Fair last year, the Greenbelt Museum is excited to announce an in-person, all outdoors, 9th annual Retro Town Fair to be held on Sunday, September 5. It is time to plan entries, and share talents with neighbors and friends. Categories will be much the same including baking and canning, needlework and crafts. This is the place to show off a good-looking cucumber or tomato.

Retro Town Fair began in 2012, the year of Greenbelt’s 75th anniversary celebration. It is an homage to the early Town Fairs held in Greenbelt starting in the late 1930s. Gardening in Greenbelt was always a big deal – this city was green from the start! The Garden Club got things going, and a beloved event is now carried on.

More information and entry forms will be coming soon on the museum website, [greenbeltmuseum.org](http://greenbeltmuseum.org), and to its social media. Email [education@greenbeltmuseum.org](mailto:education@greenbeltmuseum.org) if more information is needed.

Welcome to the Fair!



**The Retro Town Fair will be in-person and outdoors this Labor Day.**



- Photos Courtesy Greenbelt Museum

### Cicada Mania Crowns Labor Day Photo Show

After 17 years, the Cicada Mania category is returning to the 2021 Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Photo Show. The Photo Show will definitely be happening, even if it ends up being only online again. Look for updates about the 2021 Festival with details on how to enter.



## Add an ad to your bottom line \$15 and up.

[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)

### NOMINATION FORM

#### Greenbelt’s Outstanding Citizen

Submit this form by August 2, 2021, to: Bob Zugby, Chair  
Outstanding Citizen Committee  
94 Ridge Road; Greenbelt, MD 20770  
or [outstandingcitizengb@gmail.com](mailto:outstandingcitizengb@gmail.com)

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a statement (preferably printed or typed), which explains why this nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt’s Outstanding Citizen. Possible subjects include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time, specific accomplishments during period of service, the impact on Greenbelt or on people within the City, and personal qualities which make the nominee special. Award is for volunteer (unpaid) work only. Supporting printed material is useful to the Committee but is not required. Testimonials by others as to the person’s good works will be helpful.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later. The form and any additional information must be received no later than the **August 2nd** deadline.

Nominated by:

Name(s) (please print)	Signature(s)	Telephone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Thank you!



FOP continued from page 1

**CBA Provisions**

The agreement includes a 20-percent raise spread across four years and other changes in benefits, but these financial provisions seemed less of a concern to members of council than the language over the state Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR). The prior agreement with the FOP gave Greenbelt officers rights in addition to those granted by the state in the LEOBR but the new contract would not. The suggestion was made by Mayor Colin Byrd to remove any reference to the LEOBR from the contract as it was unnecessary to quote something that was legislated by the state and would automatically apply. Byrd made the point that state laws on, for example, carjacking, were not included in the agreement because they applied anyway and said that, similarly, there was no need to call out LEOBR specifically. Byrd also wanted to see the agreement itself as it would appear with the changes implemented.

**CBA Benefits to City**

Silvestri explained that the new agreement extends the term from three to four years to lock in the costs and create a longer window before a new agreement is needed. It also ties the restoration of missed steps to the

generation of revenue. In terms of the recruitment of experienced officers, the new agreement allows a newly recruited but experienced officer to come in at a step more appropriate to their level of experience. Requirement for body cam usage and incentives for physical fitness are the other major changes – and apart from these few provisions, much of the contract remains as previously stated.

Silvestri indicated that a “tracked changes” version of the proposed contract would be available within the week following the council meeting as well as a version of the contract with the changes implemented.

**FOP Disappointment**

Despite Davis’ protestations of council’s innocence, McAndrew – speaking for the FOP – expressed his deep disappointment (and that of numerous other police-related individuals texting him in real time) about the delay in voting which, he felt, “sent a profoundly negative message” to city officers. He felt that the contract should be voted on and that any minor changes that were required could be tackled as a separate issue.

In the absence of a motion, no vote was taken and the mayor referred the matter to the next meeting.

VOTING continued from page 1

voters will not be sent mail ballots unless they request them. As explained on the postcard, the application forms will be sent out later this summer. Those who do wish to vote by mail should complete the application for the ballot and send it back no later than Monday, September 27, in order to allow time for processing. The voted ballot can be returned by mail, and additional information will be provided on locations where ballots may be returned or dropped off.

While the form to request a ballot should be returned to the city no later than September 27, the deadline for registering to vote in the election is not until Monday, October 4. New voters should thus be aware that they may not be eligible to Vote by



**County Schools Offer Free Summer Meals**

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) is operating its annual Summer Food Service Program through Wednesday, August 18. Grab and Go breakfast and lunch meal packages will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 62 schools, including Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights Elementary Schools. Students attending in-school summer programs will receive breakfast and lunch.

Visit the PGCPS website for a complete list of school and library meal sites or find a nearby meal distribution site by visiting MDsummerMeals.org.

Museum Reflects on Greenbelt Pride During Online Lecture

by Melissa Signorini

It was a time for reflection at the Greenbelt Museum on Thursday, July 15 as Greenbelt Pride founding member Francis DeBernardo spoke about the history of pride in this town. The organization was the first LGBTQ group in Greenbelt, with DeBernardo setting up the group’s first meeting in June 2005 at the Community Center. “I got the ball rolling on it because I had moved to Greenbelt in 2004 and was seeing lots of rainbow and LGBTQ stickers around town but was not meeting many LGBTQ people,” he said. He spoke about LGBTQ avocation and groups in the 70s, 80s and early 90s being largely urban-based. By the late 90s and early 2000s, however, suburban groups were springing up in nearby communities like Hyattsville and Silver Spring. “LGBTQ people in the suburbs at the time were really starting to organize to help support and help one another,” said DeBernardo.

**History of Organization**

He said he did not have his sights set on an organization in the beginning, but rather a meeting to get people together to celebrate pride in Greenbelt, a theme that was traditionally recognized in June. He said the meeting grabbed the attention of two or three people, but ended up drawing 15 new faces. He credited Greenbelter Allison Myers for creating the organization’s name and slogan: “you can’t spell Greenbelt without G-B-L-T.”

A follow-up event was a pride celebration held at the New Deal Café, where then-manager Ellen Siegel added a special item on the menu for the group to enjoy: “guacamole, bacon, lettuce and tomato, so that it would have been G-B-L-T,” said DeBernardo. “Everybody ordered that.”



A museum lecture explores Greenbelt's Pride Movement on Thursday, July 15.



Frank DeBernardo

**Early Goals**

There were two goals at the top of the list for the group right off the bat: social support and visibility. DeBernardo said that one of the difficulties in being part of the LGBTQ community in America is that “they tend to be invisible. It’s hard to identify who the other LGBTQ people in a community are.” For this reason, the group started holding game nights, talent shows and

other events for bringing people together. At one event, two members even built a frame doorway so that people could tell their coming out stories, and then walk through the door.

In their first year as a group, Greenbelt Pride got a lawyer to do some pro-bono work for them, work that included petitioning the city to be recognized as an official group.

After the State of Maryland passed marriage equality legislation in 2012, an anti-LGBTQ group formed in town to advocate against the decision. A group of Greenbelt Pride-ers formed a walk in return. “As we walked down Crescent Road, more and more Greenbelters joined our contingent, and by the time we got to the reviewing stand we were 100 strong at least,” said DeBernardo. He called it an “incredible sign of support.”

**Looking Ahead**

As for the future, DeBernardo believes that although Greenbelt remains a progressive town in

See MUSEUM, page 9

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PSAC continued from page 1

city “to go beyond” county and state regulations, as long as they remained “consistent.”

In general, council was very appreciative of the effort and thoroughness of the report, and amenable to most of its recommendations, as was Byrd, who praised them for their willingness to face tough questions on their findings.

Report Summary

PSAC members Stan Zirkin and Peggy Higgins gave a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the main issues raised in the report. The subjects included de-escalation, duty to intervene, transparency, hiring, racial profiling, stop and frisk, use of force, civil liberties, militarization, immigration and civilian oversight. The recommendations came in three categories: proposals that seek to deter police misconduct, proposals that encourage fair and bias-free policing and proposals for data collection to discern if changes are occurring.

Some of the main recommendations were: no police interference with videos taken by the public and mandatory review of body camera footage in instances of use of force and stop and frisk; emphasis on de-escalation in General Orders concerning use of force and lethal weapons; whistleblower protection for officers who report on police misconduct; documentation of all police complaints; officers must identify themselves before forcibly entering premises; and submittal of all modified General Orders to the city manager and PSAC within two weeks of implementation.

Video, Audio Footage

There was a debate on the issue of release of video footage. PSAC felt that the current 30-day deadline was too long and that the three-day proposal by Byrd was too short, as informed by Bowers. Captain Timothy White explained that the state mandates redaction of personal information, like faces and vehicle license plates (in the form of blurring the image), and audio containing personal and police procedural information that is unrelated to the incident being studied. White emphasized that redaction did not mean the editing or removal of footage. As well, if the video is part of an investigation, the police department may need to take direction from the state attorney’s office, causing delays. With only a single IT employee in the department staff, and the lengthy redaction process, White said that seven days would be a reasonable compromise.

Diversity, Racial Issues

Diversity in the department was of concern to PSAC, and CALEA as well. As of 2009, the Greenbelt population was 26 percent White/non-Hispanic, 48 percent Black/non-Hispanic, 14

percent Hispanic and 12 percent other. Yet, as of 2019, 65 percent of sworn officers and 80 percent of supervisory officers were white. PSAC recommended the hiring of a law enforcement specialist in recruiting to address this diversity disparity. Byrd remarked that “this was the elephant in the room,” thanking PSAC for addressing it.

A related issue was that between 2016 and 2019, of the 47 uses of force, 42 concerned Blacks and Hispanics. PSAC, while finding the statistic disturbing, granted that bias was difficult to conclusively determine.

As well, in a comparison of traffic warnings vs. citations from 2015 to 2019, PSAC revealed that, concerning the overall percentages of citations: Black males received 44 percent and Black females 19 percent; Hispanic males received 17 percent and females 4 percent; white males received 10 percent and females 3 percent; and other-race males 2 percent and females 1 percent. Bowers said that traffic data can be “nuanced” and that it was difficult to make conclusions from “a large data set.”

Clearer Definitions

Stop and frisk was a major topic. Bowers explained that the term originated from the New York City policy and that the legal term was a Terry stop. He said that law dictates that the policy allows a pat down of a civilian for weapons if “reasonable suspicion” that “a crime is afoot,” or if verbal consent is obtained. PSAC and most of council recognized the need for such a policy, but felt that a clearer definition of “reasonable suspicion” be included in the General Orders to ensure a just application.

Bowers said that a tracking system for police officers exists that records their employment history, assuring that any officers who had been flagged for misconduct would not be hired by the department.

Transparent Process

PSAC Chair Laura Kressler said that the report process was transparent throughout and that PSAC is a diverse group, with four whites and three blacks. The report was voted upon in phases and was unanimous, with each part available on screenshots. Each member, said Kressler, was given equal opportunity to share ideas, a point concurred by member Eunice Pierre, herself a black woman.

Next Steps

Bowers said he awaits state guidance based on the April 2021 legislation, which will completely take effect in five years, before making major changes to the General Orders. Yet, Greenbelt already adheres to some of the regulations, such as the use of body cameras.

Councilmember Judith Davis

asked Bowers to make a list of all PSAC recommendations that can be enacted now, especially those concerning definitions, and those that would require council action, with Bowers acknowledging that was possible. Councilmember Emmett Jordan asked that viable alternatives be made for those that were not feasible. Byrd and Davis hoped for a response before the end of the summer in order for council to make final decisions on the mayor’s proposed legislation given the import of the issue.

To access the report, go to [www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-council/minutes-and-agendas](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-council/minutes-and-agendas). Find the City Council worksession of July 14. The report is in the same line, as is the video of the meeting.



MUSEUM continued from page 8

a progressive era, the need for LGBTQ organizations still exists. One reason is for young people, to “let them know that there are LGBTQ people who are proud of their identity and can be role models for them,” he said. Another is for new or potential residents that can have no doubts about coming to a city that appreciates their LGBTQ community.

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police).

Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

July 13, 11:17 p.m., 7700 Hanover Parkway. Two men robbed a man at gunpoint after he parked his car and got out of it.

July 13, 11:33 p.m., 9113 Springhill Lane. Two men robbed a man at gunpoint after he parked his car and got out of it.

Vehicle Crime

Three vehicles were stolen. A white 2014 BMW XI taken from 6640 Lake Park Drive was recovered on July 20 and one arrest was made. The other vehicles were both taken on July 14. A blue 2011 Toyota Highlander with Maryland tags 2DG3526 was taken from 9134 Edmonston Road and a white 2012 Honda Odyssey with Maryland tags 2EH368 was taken from 9100 Springhill Lane.

Two Maryland tags 6EP3068 were stolen from a 2016 Toyota Camry on July 13.

Two thefts from vehicles occurred after they had been left unsecured. Two phones and a wallet were taken from 7270 South Ora Court and personal items were taken from 7818 Hanover Parkway.

Two thefts occurred after windows were broken to gain access. Personal items were taken from 6122 Breezewood Drive and unspecified items from 9100 Springhill Lane.

Three instances of malicious destruction were reported. Windows were broken at 5811 Cherrywood Lane and 8017 Mandan Road. Tires were slashed at 225 Lakeside Drive.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

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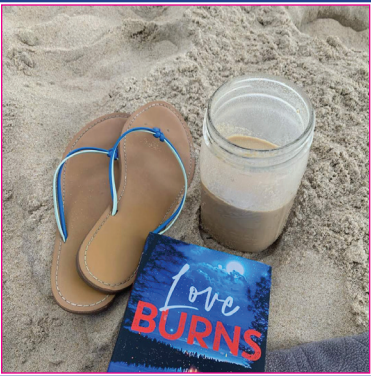
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**For more information, please contact:**  
Ms. Carol Gorham  
[hearing@umd.edu](mailto:hearing@umd.edu), 301-405-4236



Greenbelt VFD’s Greenleigh Adams will be presenting and signing her new romantic novel “Love Burns” on July 31, from 1 - 4 p.m., at Greenbelt Fire Dept. Books will be available for purchase. Come and join us.



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DUE TO HIGH DEMAND, the Lawn & Order Christmas in July celebration has been extended for another week. So you still have time to tape a cash-filled envelope to your door! Remember, participants will receive a 50% discount on all snow removal fees for July and August!

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MULTI-YARD YARD SALE – Location: 5-7 Laurel Hill Rd. & 65 Ridge Rd. Sat. July 24, 9:30ish-3 p.m. Something for everyone: clothing & accessories, crafts, household items, toys, books & more!



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Greenbelt News



PHOTO BY RAHUL MEHTA

Rick plays a sitar, a musical instrument from India, in Roosevelt Center on Sunday, July 11, making a beautiful sound with strong harmonics. Rick is a former Greenbelter who relocated several years ago but keeps coming back for good old memories.



PHOTO BY ANONYMOUS FELLOW TOURIST

The News Review celebrates the Olympics, albeit in 2019. This photo from the Fifth Station viewing location for Mt. Fuji was taken on October 31, 2019 courtesy of a bystanding non-English-speaking tourist. Pictured, from left, are Susan Stern and Marianne Giltrud, both GHI residents.

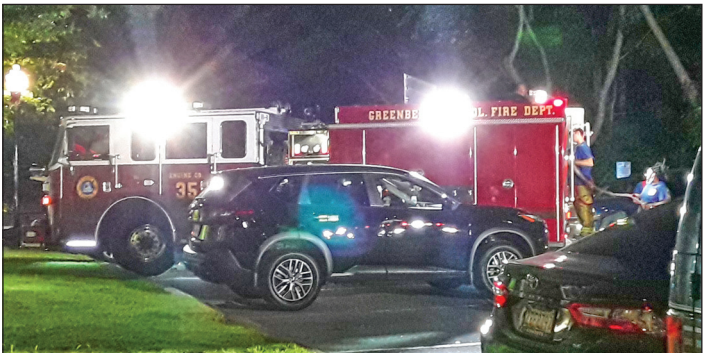


PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

On Wednesday, July 14, at approximately 9 p.m., a dryer caught fire in the laundry room at Lakeside North apartments, 412 Ridge Road. Greenbelt, Riverdale, College Park and Beltsville fire stations quickly responded. It seems there were no injuries. Several firefighter volunteers took about half an hour to untangle and repack the hoses into the fire truck. Thanks firefighters for the quick response.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

The Lake park gets back to itself with return of picnic tables.

Sports

Former Greenbelter Is Part of Olympic Team

by Melissa Signorini



PHOTO COURTESY USA BOXING

Amelia Moore, right, demonstrates her moves.

Having been a Greenbelt resident for three years, boxer Amelia Moore knows what it feels like to call the city home. Now, she has the chance to call Japan home – at least temporarily. The 31-year-old Maine native has qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in 2021 Team USA Boxing Olympic Qualification team. Moore will join Team USA as an alternate for the lightweight division. Boxing tournaments begin

Saturday, July 24 and will run through Sunday, August 8. The Women's boxing lightweight division will begin on Tuesday, July 27. All Olympic Boxing events will take place at the Ryōgoku Kokugikan arena in Tokyo. The Olympics opening ceremony will start at 7 a.m. on Friday, July 23. Boxing joins 33 other sports at this year's Olympics, six of which are making their official Olympics debut this year.



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# Three Sisters Garden Hosts Outdoor Poetry Gathering

by Julie Rapp

The Three Sisters Garden East, located in Schrom Hills Park, held a poetry reading event Sunday, July 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. Effie Levner, the garden coordinator for this site, feels there is a strong connection between poetry and gardens. Levner conceived of the idea of hosting an event like this at the garden saying, “nature and beauty come together with poetry.” The garden was in full bloom, with bunches of grapes dangling from the grapevines hanging over the arched entryways. Upon entering the inner circle of the garden, one could see tall sunflowers in bloom as well as pumpkins, tomatoes and beans ripening on their vines. An inviting circle of chairs for participants was set up under a shade tree next to the garden. An array of poetry books was spread across a table nearby for visitors to view. A diverse group of about 20 Greenbelt neighbors and friends gathered under the tree to share poems they wrote or favorites they wanted to read.

There was a sense of peace and thoughtfulness among the participants as poems were read from poets such as Rumi, Merwin and Thich Nhat Hanh and composers such as Judy Collins. An underlying message of the universality of humanity and the importance of taking care of the earth seemed to be behind many of the readings.

Levner stated, “The reason I organized this event of poetry reading in the garden came from spending a lot of time working in the garden, planting seeds and observing everything growing and blooming. It can be very inspiring and I wanted to share this beautiful experience with the community through poetry reading.” Levner chose the poet Rumi, sharing his poem, Who Am I. When Levner sits in the garden she is reminded of Rumi’s appreciation of creation and the creator. She described how from a small seed we get a plant two or three feet tall with different shades and colors. Said Levner, “it all looks and feels divine, exactly the way Rumi felt toward nature when he wrote his poems in the 13th century.” Levner hopes that people will find that poetry can be soothing and therapeutic for the soul in challenging times.

The garden currently has four dedicated volunteers that come on a regular basis to weed, water and harvest and they would be happy to have new volunteers join them. Email Levner at [effielevner@aol.com](mailto:effielevner@aol.com) for more information about the Three Sisters Garden East.

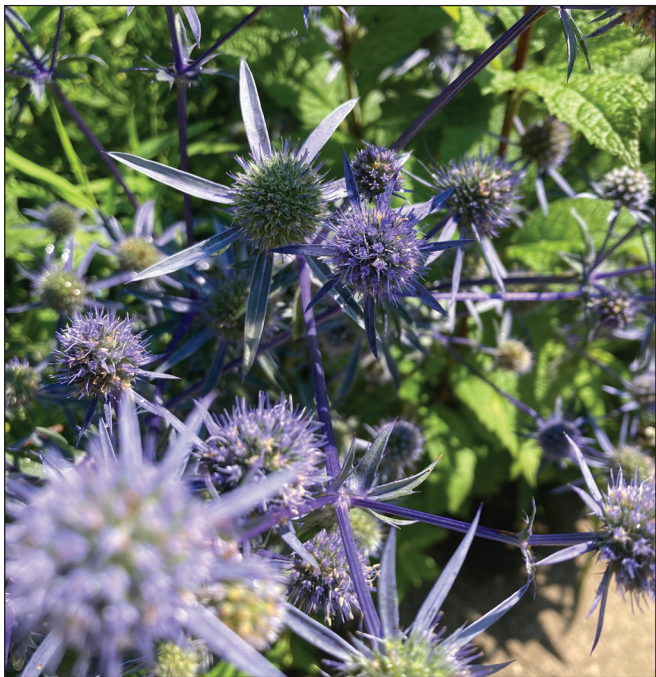


Sandra Flowe, a Garden volunteer, reads her choice of poem.

- Photos by Julie Rapp



Joe Robbins, left, coordinator for the center garden, and Maggie Cahalan, Three Sisters project coordinator, share the microphone.



The striking blue flowers of the sea holly (Eryngium) draw pollinators to Plateau Place.



A tiger swallowtail lands on the Echinacea at Plateau Place.



A Nandina bush sparkles in the morning dew.



These Alliums were originally planted by Richard Olsen, head of the National Arboretum, at 1-D Woodland Way, now owned by Mary Salemme. Many people are enchanted by them and touch them or linger to enjoy them every day.



## The Bus

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